

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes _____
no ☒

Property Name: Kresson Street B & O Railroad Bridge Inventory Number: B-5175
Address: Spans Kresson St. between Lombard and Fairmount Sts. Historic district: yes ☒ no
City: Baltimore Zip Code: 21224 County: Baltimore City
USGS Quadrangle(s): Baltimore East
Property Owner: unknown Tax Account ID Number: unknown
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): _____ Tax Map Number: 26
Project: Red Line Transit Study - Bayview Extension Agency: MTA
Agency Prepared By: John Milner Associates, Inc.
Preparer's Name: Katherine Farnham Date Prepared: 2/8/2010

Documentation is presented in: See sources below.

Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: _____ Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:

Name of the District/Property: _____

Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: yes Listed: yes

Site visit by MHT Staff yes ☒ no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

The Kresson Street Baltimore & Ohio (B & O) Railroad Bridge is a small ca. 1890s steel-plate girder bridge carrying a single railroad track at an angle across N. Kresson St. The bridge has rusticated stone abutments on each side, which are mostly intact but exhibit some damage and tumbled stones in several places. The bridge has a central span across a two-lane street and narrow side spans over sidewalks on each side, with paired steel piers forming the separation between the road and sidewalk sections. The walls of the center section of the span are taller than the rest of the girder bridge. The sides of the girder bridge have faint remains of a stencil of the B & O logo, but no other identifying information or date is evident. A horizontal piece of wood is attached to the top center of the south side of the girder bridge, but no lettering is visible. The railroad's right-of-way is no longer in use and the tracks have been removed from adjacent land, although they remain intact on the bridge itself. Vegetation has grown around both ends of the bridge and above the abutments.

The B & O Railroad constructed its Philadelphia Branch running north from Canton in 1883-1886. At some point between this line's completion and 1902, a siding was built west from the Philadelphia Branch to provide access to a few large industrial concerns west of Haven St. Two bridges, one spanning Kresson St. and the other spanning the Union Railroad cut, facilitated the passage of the elevated siding toward the west. The siding was connected to the Monumental Brewing Co., located in the block

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Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility not recommended ☒

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

MHT Comments:

Jim Janowski
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

[Signature]
Reviewer, National Register Program

3/25/10
Date

4/5/10
Date

201001580

bounded by Baltimore, Haven, Lombard, and Eaton Sts., and to a coal yard and cattle pens on the east side of Conkling St. between Baltimore and Leverton Sts. Multiple sidings connected Monumental Brewing and other nearby facilities to the rail lines. The B & O siding and its two girder bridges were constructed prior to 1902, probably at the same time as the plants were built. For a time, this was an active industrial area with residential blocks close by. However, the overall industrial decline of Baltimore after 1950 had major impacts within this neighborhood and caused many businesses to close. The siding and bridges were in use as late as 1953, when they served the Schludenberg-Kurdle plant north of Baltimore St., but they were later abandoned as rail shipping declined in favor of truck transport.

This bridge is an example of a utilitarian turn-of-the-century steel-plate girder bridge. Such bridges rose to prominence during the late nineteenth century and were used to bridge distances up to 65 feet. The bridge remains intact but it is deteriorating and both the stonework and girder bridge have been damaged by truck strikes. It retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, as well as its historic visual dominance over the surrounding streetscape. It remains a landmark within the neighborhood due to its location, size, and height. However, it is one of many such bridges in the area and does not possess distinctive or unusual features that would meet the requirements of National Register Criterion C. This siding supported a handful of local industries, but none known to be significant, and the bridge lacks association with significant persons or historical trends and events. As such, it does not meet National Register Criterion A or B. This property was not evaluated for eligibility under National Register Criterion D during the historic architecture survey. Given the bridge's common type and lack of historical significance, it is recommended not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Sources:

P.A.C. Spero & Company. Historic Highway Bridges in Maryland: 1631-1960. Prepared for Maryland State Highway Administration, 1995.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps: 1902, 1914, 1928, 1936, 1951, 1953.

Tyrrell, Henry Grattan. History of Bridge Engineering. Chicago: author, 1911.

Zembala, Dennis M., ed. Baltimore: Industrial Gateway on the Chesapeake Bay. Baltimore: Baltimore Museum of Industry, 1995.

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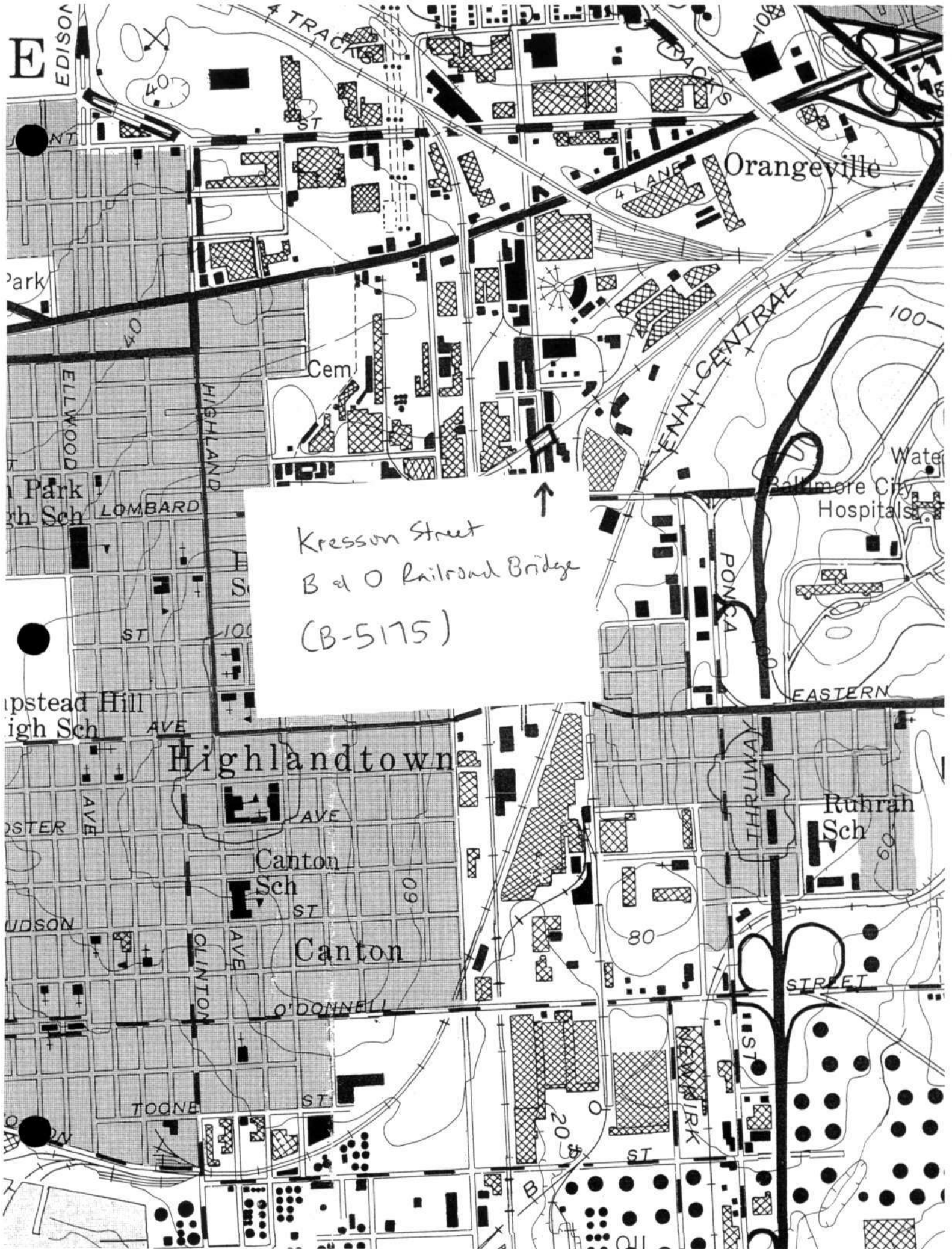
Eligibility recommended _____

Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services_____
Date_____
Reviewer, National Register Program_____
Date



Kresson Street
B & O Railroad Bridge
(B-5175)



B-5175

Kresson St. B & O Railroad Bridge

Baltimore City, MD

L. Jones & K. Farnham

4/15/2008

MD SHPO

View to south

#1 of 4



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Kresson St. Bal O Railroad Bridge

Baltimore City, MD

L. Jones & K. Farnham

4/15/2008

MD SHPO

View to south

#2 of 4



B-5175

Kresson St B & O Railroad Bridge

Baltimore City- MD

L. Jones & K. Farnham 4/15/2008

MD SHPO

View of underside, to NE

#3 of 4



B-5175

Kresson St. B&O Railroad Bridge

Baltimore City, MD

K. Farnham

10/2009

MD SHPO

Stone abutments on west side of Kresson St., view to N.

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